



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **Storefront cleric sentenced to 60 months in prison for child porn** *Cincinnati man was also a licensed school bus driver*

CINCINNATI — A local resident was sentenced here today to five years in prison, announced U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); Gregory Lockhart, U.S. Attorney, Southern District of Ohio; St. Bernard Police Chief Steven Moeller; and Gerald O'Farrell, Assistant Inspector in Charge, U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

Robert Earl Elms, aka "Father Dominic Elms," 52, of the 4600 block of Tower Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio, was sentenced today before Judge Susan J. Dlott in U.S. District Court, Southern District of Ohio, to 60 months in prison, three years supervised probation, participation in a sex offender's program and a \$1,000 fine.

Elms surrendered to ICE special agents in December 2003 after he was charged with possessing and distributing child pornography resulting from a search of his storefront church residence.

This investigation began after the police in Frankfurt, Germany, (Bundeskriminalamt) investigated a group of individuals who receive and distribute child pornography. German authorities turned the information regarding Elms over to ICE agents at the ICE Cyber Crime Center (C3) in Fairfax, Va. Elms was considered a priority for investigation since he was licensed to drive a school bus for the Princeton School District in Ohio.

ICE agents executed a federal search warrant at Elms' residence assisted by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the St. Bernard Police Department. Agents seized three computers and numerous media, including formatted computer disks suspected of containing child pornography.

"Those who trade in child pornography are supporting the abuse and exploitation of the most innocent and vulnerable among us," said Brian Moskowitz, special agent-in-charge for ICE Office of Investigations in Detroit. "ICE will not allow them to use cyberspace to hide this repugnant activity. We will use all of our investigative tools to identify these individuals and bring them to justice." Moskowitz oversees ICE investigations in Michigan and Ohio.

“Elms surrendered to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents on December 28, 2004 and has been in custody since his arrest,” Lockhart said. “The strength of federal laws against child pornography is our ability to get the criminals off the streets immediately and keep them out of the community.”

This child pornography investigation is part of ICE's Operation Predator, a nationwide initiative to safeguard children against Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, child sex tourists, and human traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE special agents have arrested more than 7,900 individuals nationwide, including 87 in Ohio.

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Ralph W. Kohnen, Southern District of Ohio, prosecuted the case.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*